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Agenda item 90

Protection of persons in the event of disasters

Report of the Sixth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Protection of persons in the event of disasters" was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 71/141 of 13 December 2016.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 31st and 35th meetings, on 1 and 13 November 2018. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/229).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.26

5. At the 35th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of persons in the event of disasters" (A/C.6/73/L.26).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.26 without a vote (see para. 7).

[1] A/C.6/73/SR.31 and A/C.6/73/SR.35.

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III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

7. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of persons in the event of disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/141 of 13 December 2016, in which it took note of the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters adopted by the International Law Commission at its sixty-eighth session,[1]

Recalling also that the Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles,[2]

Noting with concern the increasing number of disasters in the world, as well as their intensity and impact on affected populations,

Emphasizing the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, as referred to in Article 13, paragraph 1 (a), of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting that the subject of the protection of persons in the event of disasters is of major importance in the relations of States,

1. *Takes note* of the views and comments expressed in the debates of the Sixth Committee at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on this topic,[3] as well as the comments and observations received from Governments on the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters and on any future action thereon;[4]

2. *Also takes note* of the draft articles on the protection of persons in the event of disasters;[1]

3. *Brings to the attention* of States the recommendation by the International Law Commission that a convention be elaborated on the basis of the draft articles,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments that have not yet done so to submit comments thereon;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled "Protection of persons in the event of disasters".

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/71/10), para. 48.

[2] Ibid., para. 46.

[3] See A/C.6/73/SR.31.

[4] See A/73/229.